Dear Howard, 9/2/72

This is a semi-euphoric moment for me. I slep 8 hours last night! Took two hitches to make but, but I did!. A rare thing. It has, as it always does, left me physically tired and almost a bit fuzzy in the head. It is strange what a full night of sleep does for me.

I needed it. Yesterday was a bad day in many ways. First xxx of all, it was a good day in terms of accomlishment. What is bad is that none of it should have been necessary. I left at 8 for Washington, after beginning a memo on The Watergate Caper, work on one thing, the draft of an affidavit for James Earl Ray with Jim until 2, and then had no time for any of the other Ray work. I feel I ought not have to do any of this, it being the jobs of the lawyers; yet realize I must, for despite Jim' first-rate intentions and good mind, he lacks experience and after all this time hasn't mastered the fact. Then I walked the errant nrephw (if you haven't learned the lingo of the underworld, this means he is not in jail but walked out) after a new stupidity where his lawyer, had the advice been followed, would have had him in jail. This one I was on the spor for only by accident. I had promised him I'd go with him on his monthly visit to his probation officer, who left early the night before. It turns out a policeman had been to see him in the a.m., hadn't seen his car and assumed he was not home, he saw the cop, told me about it, and I insisted that with the time. not needed for the probation officer we see what the police wanted. This gesture was the beginning of a series of fortunate accidents that made this break possible. The big thing was not me by two very decent (and quite professional) detectives. It was a great sensation, after some of my experiences, to find two detectives on one case of whom I can honestly say that they really know their business and are, at the same time, concerned human beings. I had spent some time with one awaiting the other and we established a kind of arrport which helped. Let give you a reading on the parents of kids in trouble, he could remember but a single recent case in which any adult had had any interest in a kid in trouble, one father. In his experience, never an uncle. Am I saying enough for my peers and today's world? But with this nephew, I fear this, the third stupidity and criminal act from none of which he derived or could have derived any profit is this last so far as all of us are concerned. His widowed mother just won't be able to take any more. The lawyer told me that while the chances are against it, the sentence can be up to 25 years. I expect him to get no time if he behaves. If he doesn't and is again in trouble despite the loe quality of the institttions, my one effort whill be to get him insttituionalised. Between this and wasted time on Ray there has been a incredible drain on mine. That took from before 3 until 10:30 last night.

Anyway, the combination puts me in a pretty good mood. I can evenforget more incredible legal stupidities in the Ray case I couldn't discover until I had a chance for the first time to read some of the basic papers in the Ray case that only naturally had been withheld from me for more than a year because I am the investigator on the case.You'll learn about that with a carbon. I first read your letter of the 30th, because there was enough of a volume of these Ray papers I knew I'd not finish them. The only other lett er yesterday was a delight about which you'll also learn via carbon, Morgan.

Glad your revision is completed. I'd have assumed that is what kept you busy had you not omitted saying it. The omission is what made me wonder if something were wrong. I'm glad to know about the shall we say ineffeciency of the mail? But pay it no heed. It may be all just accident and if it isn't it is self-castrating to be concerned about it.

What you describe that dissipirited you is normal. It is not only a period in intellectual growth - everytbody treats you otherwise but you have had only 19 years of experience with life and most of thos don't count - and a natural consequence of your situation, about which you could really do nothing, real frustration. You are right in believing getting back to school will make a vast difference. And editing a completed work is a drag anyway. The fun is in the creation for most minds. You are fortunate in the advice Fink gave the press, for with the Lattimer-Morgan-Wecht combo not taking that stuff our would have been fatal. Aside from this it was good advice anyway.

I think the whole business with Cyril et al was more involved in this than you, that you comprehend only part of the reason. You are right in that in was, as I believe I tried to encourage you to believe at the first sign of distress, what you call "abenefical experience". I think it was a bit more than that and a bit different. Of course the emotinal toll was great. Had to be. I think you can imagine that I had a similar experience with it, perhaps a little more of it. We are, however, less damaged than I had believed possible. Cyril also is. But I wonder if his ego will let him ever understand this. I have written

him with some severity after a long period of silence. I have not, as I have come to learn Gary and Jerry have, written round-robin letters. I have stayed out except where I felt the interests of others were involved, and here I mean you, Gary, Jerry and Sylvia. They may not see it that way now, But I think in time Sylvia will. What Gary and Jerry did is so utterly foreign to the kind of young men they are, so completely unethical and simultaneously futile, I doubt they'll come to grips with it. It is easier to regard me as at fault, satisfy themselves that way, and just shun the whole thing on this basis. Both were atypically stupid with it, which will not please themselves with themselves in their own thoughts. However, the hurt to me, personally, still possible, is still great. The collective hurt remains great if Cyril proceeds firther with his insanities. This is why I have taken the unsubtle 2x4-to-the-head approach with him. Generally people react strongly against this kind of approach, but with Cyril's clear record of refusing to think added to the now not reasonably doubted one of ulterior motive, if I think the prospects of reaching him are not good, it is also clear that no other approach has any chance. As a matter of fact, several days ago I wrote a letter intending it for many ridiculing this whole affair, hoping also to make them thing, but I haven't read it and have decided whether to send it.

I'm glad you remember that despite my strong opposition to the whole thing I still sent you so long a letter on how he could be helped if his purposes were serious, and how he could be protected from his own stupidities and bad purposes. That must have been 3,000 to 4,000 words of time. I wonder if Sylvia or Gary of Jerry could believe I could and did do this? They are so the creatures of their own involvements and their own doubts about them and, I think, of their inability to do anything about something anout which they are serious. The real tragedy is Sylvia's, for she has the capacity as none other. Her situation and the discrimination against women typical of this corrupt society are what prevent her continuing putting her inordinately fine mind to work on this. For all their good intentions, Gary and Jerry have done nothing of any significance and can't.

I think it might help Sylvia work her way out of this if you told her the story about your plan, my letter, your repeated and unanswered calls to Wecht, mine of an earlier period of which you know from my files, the fullness and openness with which I dealt with him, including with the content of the new final part of PM that she and he have not seen, and anything else you consider relevant. I may include an extra carbon of this for that purpose, leaving the decision up to you. That is what I thought driving home last night and one is in the machine in case I think this may be a good approach. I leave the final decision up to you. I think that unless and until she realizes that she did not really understand Cyril, of who we all had the hoghest opinion personally and professionally, she will be troubled by this and her part in it.

We are in basic agreement on the possibilities of the time he was prepared to devote to each item. I regard yours as optimistic, but we agree that even that was not enough time, so there is no dispute. You can learn from this one part a method of thinking for yourself that in the future might be helpful to you in making your own analysis. Does it not strike you as strange that all these people who know so much about a subject were blind to this? Do you not also realize that with the actualities prevailing at the Archives it could have worked out to as little as perhaps less than a minute for each piece if he spent an entire day on it, the representation of his plans that I got from the CIA people? And I think coming from him originally and repeated to me by someone else. But regardless of how one figures the minutes per, this kind of analysis eliminated any need to consider motive, a hangup, I'm sure, for everyone except me and possible in the latter stages you: it just could not be the kind of serious examination represented and pretended. I have done some of this kind of thing with fewer materials. When I "lost" in court and got what you know is a real victory and, after more fighting, got them to take the kinds of pictures I wanted, there were, as I recall, bu sic pictures, taken two time, meaning two visits, and each was most of a morning where I knew what Cyril will never begin to know to begin with. This is what real examination of such evidence requires, time, much time. I am confident I have spent more time on one thing, the holes in the garments, than Cyril has on the entire subject.

Dick and I did not discuss this, as I recall, when he phoned. I remember writing him about this only when I felt you might be taxed and from your inexperience not know where to turn. You will remember I suggested if your found counsel with your father inadequate

to turn to Dick. You then need not expert advice from one who knew all the intimate details but just an older person you trusted to consult. I am certain I told Dick rather little of what was involved to prepare him. So, if we discussed it when he phoned, it was not in any detail, and we had little correspondence on this, none confidential, when he started hearing from others. I heard of Lifton ~~xxx~~ from him and Ed, for example. I know he had some contact with Cyril, Jerry and Gary, but not the extent and nature and don't care, haven't asked. I am pretty sure I sent him none or virtually no carbons, for I did not want to widen any gaps of which there were then too many and I believe I will in the future come to feel too few. We have to separate from the past and separate the past from control over the changing future. Here I want you to do your own thinking again. My own view is clear, as it has been, but you also have to think this through for yourself, as I tried to help you do when you were confronted with the recent mess. My view is that the intellectual capacity (Sylvia's) and the good intentions (everybody's, even to a degree Cyril's), can't be controlling when judgements must be made and those seeking to make them haven't the factually basis for really making them. These also were dominated by emotions. I express mine, sometimes with too much haste and emotion, but for the most part they do not control what I do. Example: telling you to be independent of me and in the end how to help Cyril when I saw the new troubles ahead. Our emotions were of different kind and that in itself made a difference.

There is nothing to be gained in rehashing Cyril's rehash. In fairness to him this ~~ptacyune~~: Graham had a needless dirtiness in his piece: that the CTIS provided him with transportation. I needled Jim about this yesterday, and he laughed and said it was no more than Bob Smith meeting him at the Archives and driving him to, I think the airport. I know from personal experience how kiserly Cyril can be, but I don't think for a minute that he asked Bud to pay his transportation or that had he, Bud would have. It is minor except as illumination of Graham by Graham. But I had that in 1966 and needed no more, as perhaps even Sylvia will remember when he once impressed her with a call.

No point in~~x~~ taking time for the purposes of the Watson book review now. It is dated, but when you are here we can discuss it. That is a subject on which Bill keeps a file and we can then go over it.

Khruschev Correspondence file: It is, the folder, still in the TIGER file. Contents gone. I don't think Jerry would have done anything on purpose with it, don't know if he ever looked in that file, but he is such a blob in his ways there is no telling what he might have done and genuinely forgotten. If it is gone, it is a real loss for me. I have spent some time looking for it.

Potomac: in general I agreewith you. I might got a step further and say that this new flap can bring about an adverse change. But I'll also take another approach. From the first I have been willing to risk the head on the block. I have no real choice and I still find it attached. If it is honest,if it is not edited from the form in which it was described to me, it can do us some good. We will not all appear to be nuts. I saw but two pages. I asked to see but the single part of which I spoke when I learned of it by accident. Each man takes his own approach. In Smith's position, I'd ask the subject to read the piece. He hasn't. I take this to mean that he'd regard it as an effort to intrude upon his independence were I to ask, so I don't. I learned my lesson on this with Castorr. I can only hope that Smith doesn't with me! I was quite surprised when his direction changed for the original interest was in the "Can Mr. Weisberg Translate" threat/challenge. All I know is that it is inordinately long and a reporter who knows me and read it says it is a good piece. As of perhaps a month ago. I've not even tried to speak to Smith since. But if you regard the possible advantages of this as "recognition", then you take a different view than I. Recognition in itself serves the ego only. There are times that can have short-lived emotional benefits, but no more. Pursuit of it is futility and unhealthy. It does nothing if it does only that. Unless that leads to what it would be folly to expect.

Gary's letter: As I remember it, the only critic to whom I sent a copy was Mary, and I asked her to do what she did, send it to you. May had and still has only copies of some of my files, such is my selfishness and my paranoia. When this Gary/Jerry thing happened I told her the experience, one I never expected, was too much and I'd like to have them back. She phoned me and I learned for the first time of the most serious and tragic accidents and developments in her family. She asked me about it, I told her, she said she'd write Gary right away (she is very fond of him), I counselled her against it, and so she could see for herself the basis of my view and counsel Isent this with the injunction I imposed upon

you, that it never be used adverse to his personal interest. I have never sought vengeance, not, at least, since my World War II experiences, and would not consider changing this basic philosophy now. Despite the great hurt Gary's poor judgement has brought us, and need I tell you of more than I cried when he knew what he did and told nobody until he finally confessed it to Lil and me in person this past January, I have no desire to hurt him. His hurt to himself will at some point be comprehensible to him and that will be more than enough pain for him. He has not, by the way, responded to that letter. As you know now, he simply cannot. I can have only sympathy for him now if he is able to confront the reality of what he did and how he behaved.

It is more culpable than you realize, for Gary had a point. He knew of another such think that you have forgotten. He also had that and saw my originals. What he was really doing was making it clear which one he wanted to steal. He had no use for the wrong one. Remind me and I'll show you. It also is in FH III(new).Or, even less than no possibility of innocence.

Kelley letter: as you by now know, he did one of the two things I concidered possible and you have seen what I have done with it. This now lays still another basis for rectification of evil, should that become necessary. Can you now understand why I delayed so long doing anything about it? I'm not by any means my timing was correct, but I decided to wait, thinking months ago waiting was probably better.

Morgan; ok on routing. I'll be using a bit of this in the (ugh!) epilogue to the epilogue.

Hades+Camelot: forget. All done. Ditto Hoover-Rankin 9/23/64. In FH

Sprague: enclosed. Don't bother returning. You may hear more of this in Realist, etc. Suggest you ignore. Karsner and a dedicated woman, Mae Brussell, are bringing out another Joseten, I regret. She means so well!

It is right that I am not privy to your correspondence with Sylvia on the entire mess and I have no interest in ever knowing about it. I would anticipate that all of this has caused Sylvia even more grief. I am confident she had to have had misgivings in adavance from the nature of her correspondence with me and her atypical lack of contact with realities and the record in it. Sylvia has a tremenduous mind, and if you send her a copy of this it will not be news to her that this is my belief. However, I have always felt that the best way to approach such things is head on. I find recent confirmation in an AP story quoting Han Selye, who is a pioneer in the field he titled, "Stress". He says the same thing ina different way: that the stresses of modern life are not relieved by more leisure time but by work and immersion in work and the stresses themselves. So, while telling you to use your own judgement, it is mine that Sylvia, unless she is quite ill, will come out of this ok when she confronts it directly, puts it all together for herself, and comes to her own understanding. I don't for a minute thing she has any God-like concept od self, does not consider she can t make mistakes, for long begore her age, which is less than mine, one realizes that eith the best of intentions error can't be avpided. However, it is possible that she might be pretty ill, so be careful and see if you can get a basis for decision. Perhaps when she writes you again you'll find it. The two things coming together may have been a hard blow. That medical change must have been a severe strain on the body. Don't lose sight of this possibility, please, and what it may have done, especially by way of weakening her. Here you should also consider that the conditions of her work are very hard, draining both mind and body, and all of this came at the one time she could have had to restore herself, her vacation. Be very careful not to go farther than whatever you may have in writing her until you get a dependable reading on her present physical and emotional condition. By now I would estimate that the Cyril thing weights heavily upon her emotions.

What I really want to do and what I'm taking all this time for it to put all of this and all of the questions behind us so that we can spend as much as possible of our time constructively. There remain worries, as I've already indicated. I've done what I now can to address them and I'll let the rest await the future.

I disagree with your evaluation of the Times piece as "worse than I would have expected". This is your opinion. My opinion is that it is less hurtful than I expected because it did not require reaction. It was the reaction I most feared. The basic damage is there, but not as badly as I'd have expected. We have the wierd combination I never expected ~~fix~~ to find in Cyril to thanks for this. I over-estimated his professionalism. I was too generous in attributing his lack of understanding of the panel report to hasty reading. He just isn't

with it outside his lab. With his scalpel in hand he must be great. He is impressive beyond description on t w witness stand - if he knows what he is talking about. The one time I've seen him I saw to it that he knew what he was talking about. So, I guess this, too, helped me deceive myself about his professionalism,

Whenever the time comes that you consider Sylvia should know what is in my files of correspondence with him and your personal knowledge of other things, as what I told him, you have my permission to say or not say whatever you consider appropriate, with the one injunction: nothing to hurt him personally and her agreement never to so use it. In recent years I h ve come to understand that much of the Old Testament seems to be part of me. The eye-for-an-eye part is not. You know that I should have had doubts about his motives earlier than I did, and there is no need to spare me on this. There my judgement failed. I should have broken off from him completely when he didn't respond to my offer of a joint thing that, depending only upon his capability, could have broken this thing several years ago. The flesh of us all is controlled by our minds that become the captives of our desires, so we can and do all of us make these mistakes. I w nted to trust Cyril too much, I was overly impressed with him, I was too uncritical, and all of these things led me to my own mistakes, which I saw too late. I don't hide it from myself. So, if you decide to go onto this with Sylvia, which should thereafter be controlled by her willingness, don't sugar coat it. And I suggest that you let it await voice rather than written communication. Not to hide a written record but so there can be dialogue and that any question she may have can be addressed. If she has the questions possible, this could mean an enormous correspondence without which unfairness might be the end product.

Your analysis and comment on what Cyril said is not unkind. It means and was taken to men, which is more important, even more than you said.

Thanks for the ultimate agreement. But instead of looking at it in this way, that I was right, I think you could serve yourself better when you have time in thinking it over beginning with why didn t I think of it this way? Thus you can learn from it and perhaps expand the ways in which you can approach problems. Remember the Geoffrey Saxe poem about those wise blind men of Hindustan when they were taken to feel an elephant for the first time. If you haven't read it, when next at the library get it. I've now forgotten the number, but I think it is The Six Wise Men of Hindustan.

If you will becoming during any school vacation, after you get American Grotesque, don't bother to mail it. You can get it then and I'll pay you then. Also, remind me that I have a really superb old and old-fashioned breif case that was worth $100 in the 1930s and needs repair that was promised on Ridge Ave in Phila. I'll give it to you, for I really don't need it, and you dan see if it is worth the cost. It is of 1/4 inch cowhide and the guessts have given way. I don t think the cost would be great and you ll have a lifetime of use of it, a capacity greatly exceeding that if the largest attache case, and a thing of real luxury. If something of the quality were available today it would have to come from someplace like England and would cost at least $200. It is down in the cellar with the correspiondence with the company that says it can make the repair.

Now, unless there is knowledge we should have or share or unless the potential for further damage in the future looks like reality or unless the personal problems with this of some of the peop,e involved really do require thought and consideration, let this be part of the past except for what good we may be able to extract from it. This kind of time neither of us should devote to it again without such need.

Hope the coming school year is a good one. I haven t seen yesterday's paper yet (Lil clipped it for me and when I got home last night I had to spend the time with her sister and the son), haven't gone for a monring wlak, haven't even gotten today's paper. And Lil awaits my taking her grocery shopping.

Best,